

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00

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O R 170430Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1342

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3639

NEW DELHI FOR RSO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, PINS, PINT, BG

SUBJ: SECURITY THREAT AGAINST DACCA DIPLOMATIC CORPS

REF: DACCA'S 3446

1. DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, CZECH AMBASSADOR PANZ, SUMMONED CHIEFS
OF
MISSION TO URGENT MEETING LAST EVENING TO RELAY WARNING FROM BDG
OF POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING OR OTHER ATTACK AGAINST CORPS. HE SAID
THAT IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARK HUSAIN EARLIER IN THE
DAY, FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD TOLD HIM THERE WAS REASON TO FEAR,
IN CONNECTION WITH CURRENT TRIAL OF JSD FIGURES, THAT SUCH AN
ATTACK MIGHT BE MADE AS MEANS OF EXERTING LEVERAGE
ON BDG TO RELEASE JSD PRISONERS AND HAD ASKED PANZ TO CONVEY
THIS CONCERN TO CHIEFS OF MISSION. ALTHOUGH PARTICULAR THREAT
WAS SEEN TO CHIEFS OF MISSION-- PANZ SAID FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD
MENTIONED AMERICAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS AS EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE
TARGETS -- IT WAS NOT CONFINED TO THEM AND COULD AFFECT ANY
MEMBER OF THE CORPS. FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD SAID THAT BDG WAS
TAKING EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS BUT BELIEVED THAT CHIEFS
OF MISSION WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO CURTAIL THEIR MOVEMENTS
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FOR THE TIME BEING AND ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY SPECIAL TRAVEL

PLANS.

2. PANZ WAS VAGUE IN HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTION RAISED AT THE MEETING WHETHER BDG HAD UNCOVERED SPECIFIC PLOT OR WAS SIMPLY DRAWING INFERENCE FROM CURRENT SITUATION, AND ALSO WHAT SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL MEASURES BDG WOULD BE TAKING TO ENHANCE CORPS' SECURITY. HE WAS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO SEE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SOONEST TO MAKE THE POINT THAT BDG'S ACTION IN CONVEYING THIS WARNING TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS DID NOT RELIEVE IT IN ANY WAY OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORP'S PROTECTION AND TO LEARN WHAT SPECIFIC FURTHER MEASURES BDG WOULD BE TAKING.

3. COMMENT. WHILE WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S ACTION RESULTS FROM NEW INTELLIGENCE ABOUT JSD INTENTIONS, IT MAY ALSO BE THAT THIS WARNING IS SIMPLY BDG'S DELAYED REACTION TO EARLIER INTELLIGENCE WHICH WE ALSO RECEIVED ABOUT HIGHJACKING EFFORT AND WHICH CAUSED US TO TAKE OUR OWN PREVENTIVE MEASURES (DACCA'S 3446). IN CONSEQUENCE OF THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE CONTACTED LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING ALL MEMBERS OF MISSION TO URGE PARTICULAR CAUTION IN THEIR AND THEIR FAMILIES' MOVEMENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
BOSTER

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